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IN THE CLAIMS

Amended Claims follow:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
 - (c) discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the monitored aspect.
2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network attacks.
3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising generating a summary of the accounting information.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.
6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.
7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.

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8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
11. (Previously Amended) A computer program product for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
 - (c) computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the monitored aspect.
12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network attacks.
13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.
14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising computer code for generating a summary of the accounting information.

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15. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.
16. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.
17. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.
18. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.
19. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes computer code for monitoring a load on a system receiving the accounting information.
20. (Previously Amended) A system for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) logic for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) logic for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

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- (c) logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the monitored aspect.
- 21. (Previously Amended) A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
 - (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the monitored aspect.
- 22. (Previously Amended) A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) receiving an indication relating to at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
 - (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic, based on the indication.
- 23. (Previously Amended) A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
 - (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
 - (b) detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;
 - (c) detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;
 - (d) detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;
 - (e) detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount;
 - (f) detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;
 - (g) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on aspects detected during steps (b)-(f); and
 - (h) generating a summary of the accounting information;
 - (i) wherein the accounting information that occurs during a surge in network traffic is discarded.